

On Ice and Snow Gardening Art

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Ice and snow have existed for thousands of years, coming and going without any attention. With the development of the history, people who live in the ice and snow world have realized that ice and snow can be used to create happiness for their lives after they have suffered a lot. So people came to make good use of ice and snow by skating and skiing on them, then using them as architectural materials, people make them into pieces of artistic works to decorate and amuse those who live in cold areas through the skill of accumulation, building and sculpture. But these are only simple use of ice and snow. Ice and snow were considered as a kind of art in 1963, developed into a kind of gardening art in 1982 and became more and more perfect in 90th. It was the clever and diligent Harbin people who woke up the silent ice and snow world, it was the talented gardening workers of Harbin turned these different formed and crystalline ice and snow art pieces into an ice and snow gardening world through serious designing and considerable arranging.

The research on ice and snow garden building should base on traditional Chinese gardening, which is the guide of the practice and the foundation of Chinese ice and snow garden building theory. Based on the traditional Chinese garden-building art, this article discusses the ice and snow gardening art, aiming to get people know the ice and snow art, understand it, love it and care about it, and also tries to make the ice and snow garden-building are-which assembles scenic spots on the earth, convey spirits of our history, reappear architectural wonders in ancient time and today-really become a member of Chinese gardening.

The origin and definition on ice and snow garden-building

Mr. Fen Meirui, the specialist in garden building in Harbin, offered the word of "ice and snow garden-building" in 1982. Hence then, the ice lantern show became a member of gardening family. In this splendid and magical world, the ordinary ice and snow reappear the long-standing national culture and pour into beautiful soul. The initial achievements of ice and snow art fill in the gaps in our history of garden-building. We can declare to the world: people live in cold region can build an "ice and snow garden" in a limited space with ice and snow resource.

From the definition of gardening, the ice and snow garden-building is: using natural (or artificial) snow and ice, coordinated with light and sound as the form of expression to create a visual-endless natural environment and recreation place in a certain area and limited space through engineering techniques and art meaning.

The natural spirit of ice and snow garden-building art

From the point of gardening, both eastern and western gardening require "natural spirit". As one of the arts, the "natural spirit" penetrates into the creation of ice and snow. Ice lantern, used originally as the tool of lightening for work, has transferred from the fetish of human to the seek of natural beauty. Harbin people revived this long-oblivious antique folk art and made it dissolved in Chinese gardening family and formed a miracle in garden-building. Its rise and development reflect the nostalgia and yearn for nature. It is a kind of supplementation to psychology and hunt for spirit. Ice and snow garden-building creates a world filled with high natural spirit for the people in cold and dull winter life. Undoubtedly, it makes a prominent contribution to wealth, spirit and culture.

The space concept of ice and snow garden-building art

From the first anniversary of ice lantern show, the gardening workers have tried every means on space. They have made painstaking effort to design many landscapes on the mount and in the river of park, aiming to provide an upper look and overlook chance for the viewers. The breakthrough in space is relying on the operation of visit

and sightseeing. Every anniversary put the viewness and participation as the focal point of creation. Viewness is belonging to static view, and sightseeing is belonging to dynamic view. All these are the planning of the space. During the process of space design, the designers must make the visitors impressed by the effect of the ice and snow landscape in the limited space. From the 20th anniversary, the ice and snow show has been involved in a new area-theme ice lantern. It broke through the sealed and limited space, and formed a complex and changeable reciprocal space. This gifted the visitors with a feeling of endlessness and interesting.

The landscape theory in ice and snow gardening art

The landscape theory is most important in ice and snow art. The creators have produced many wonderful landscapes base on this theory from the first Lantern Show to the 24 th assembly. The definition of the theory lies in that no landscape can be created without the human being's life or their amusement activities. The human being is a vivid part of the landscapes. The people's life mode, interest and aesthetic attitude vary from the times. So we'll create perfect ice and snow work of art which meet the people's need if we put the human being's activity itself into the landscapes.

The theme ice lantern enrich the ice and snow gardening art

It took 20 anniversaries for Harbin Ice Lantern Show to develop from non-theme ice lantern to theme one. It seemed that every anniversary alike though they became better and better. Non-theme Ice and snow Gardening bothered the development of the ice lantern. Drawing on collective wisdom, the ice and snow gardening artists raised a brand new idea-theme ice lantern. So it was in 1993, the 20th anniversary that they absorbed theme ice lantern. So far we have run 4 anniversaries theme ice lantern. The theme ice lanterns were relatively successful from the 22nd to 24th anniversary. They can compare with the current theme ice lantern show, for vulture was contained in amusement. People could enjoy the excited sense of adventure, and natural landscapes all over the world in a less time. The theme ice lantern has injected energy in ice and snow gardening art. It will glorify the Chinese Gardening art with a completely new gardening technique.

The value and meaning of the ice and snow gardening art

There are some difference between ice and snow gardening art and garden art, though their means of artistic expression are similar. Compared to garden art, the ice and snow art has great limitation. It cannot show the beauty of afforestation on ice-covered earth, but its own features cannot be compared to other arts. Using the cheap snow, a garden landscape is recreated by the ice lantern, ice flower, ice and snow sculptures and ice architecture in the garden. These sparkling and transparent work of art are set off by the colorful lights, which reflects incomparable value of gardening art. It provides us with a special garden environment, remedies some artistic conception that cannot be shown by garden art, and starts a new world for Chinese gardening art.

Ice and snow gardening art is new art style, whose value and meaning cannot be estimated, but what is certain is that people have become active and economy prosperous since the ice and snow gardening art stepped into local people's lives, and the whole world has focused its attention upon it.